IRELAND

COUNTRY PROFILE

**IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21:
REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE SINCE THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, 1992**

**Information Provided by the Government of Ireland to the
United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
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United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development
Division for Sustainable Development
The Information contained in this Country Profile is also available on the World Wide Web, as follows:
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IRELAND

This country profile has been provided by: Ireland

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Note from the Secretariat: An effort has been made to present all country profiles within a common format, with an equal number of pages. However, where Governments have not provided information for the tables appended to Chapters 4 and 17, those tables have been omitted entirely in order to reduce the overall length of the profile and save paper. Consequently, there may be some minor inconsistencies among the formats of the different country profiles.

All statistics are rendered as provided by the respective Governments.

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ACRONYMS

APELL	Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level
CFC	chlorofluorocarbon
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ELCI	Environmental Liaison Centre International
EMINWA	environmentally sound management of inland water
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GEMS/WATER	Global Water Quality Monitoring Programme
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution
GIPME	Global Investigation of Pollution in Marine Environment (UNESCO)
GIS	Geographical Information System
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
GSP	generalized system of preferences
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAP-WASAD	International Action Programme on Water and Sustainable Agricultural Development
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
IBSRAM	International Board of Soil Resources and Management
ICCA	International Council of Chemical Associations
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICPIC	International Cleaner Production Information Clearing House
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
IEEA	Integrated environmental and economic accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development
IGBP	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (ICSU)
IGBP/START	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme/Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INFOTERRA	International Environment Information system (UNEP)
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	integrated pest management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ITC	International Tin Council
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization

ACRONYMS (Cont'd)

IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PGRFA	plant genetic resources for agriculture
PIC	prior informed consent procedure
SADCC	South African Development Co-ordination Conference
SARD	sustainable agriculture and rural development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNU	United Nations University
WCP	World Climate Programme (WMO/UNEP/ICSU/UNESCO)
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature (also called World Wildlife Fund)
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)

OVERVIEW

(You may wish to use pages v and vi to briefly present your national position five years after UNCED)

Ireland has a widely based approach towards the promotion and achievement of sustainable development; and in particular towards the implementation of the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21. This approach is reflected in a range of national policy plans/statements and practical measures which together provide a dynamic framework for action across major areas of the economy and within both governmental and non-governmental sectors. Environmental principles and policies for the 1990s were outlined in the Government's Environment Action Programme, published in January 1990 and subject to periodic reviews and updates (cf Moving Towards Sustainability). Since 1990, the momentum towards fuller environmental integration has intensified at many levels - institutional, regulatory, consultative and sectoral. It is now a key component of Government policy and an integral consideration in Ireland's economic development programme for the remainder of the decade, (cf the National Development Plan and Community Support Framework (1994-1999)). **National Sustainable Development Strategy:** As part of the further development of Ireland's sustainable development policies the Government is committed to preparing a National Sustainable Development Strategy, and is establishing a cabinet sub-committee to oversee and drive the process. The strategy will address all areas of Government policy which impact on the environment and will contain detailed targets and provision for annual reviews. A parliamentary committee on sustainable development has also been established. In association with this strategy, the government is also committed to working towards a new set of indicators of sustainable economic development which will take account of environmental and social factors. It is intended that the National Sustainable Development Strategy will be published in early 1997. **National Land Use Policy:** The Government is also committed to drawing up guidelines for both national policy-makers and planning authorities regarding the location of agricultural, industrial, forestry, aquaculture, and tourism developments. In addition, the operation of current planning controls will be improved and amended if necessary in relation to the protection of high quality landscapes especially in tourist/amenity areas.

FACT SHEET
UNCSD - NATIONAL LEVEL COORDINATION STRUCTURE OF AGENDA 21 ACTIONS
(Fact Sheet)

IRELAND

1. Key National Sustainable Development Coordination Mechanism(s)/Council(s).
Environment Policy Unit, Department of the Environment

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2. Membership/Composition/Chairperson: See note below.

2a. List of ministries and agencies involved: No information.

2b. Names of para-statal bodies and institutions involved, as well as participation of academic and private sectors: No information.

2c. Names of non-governmental organizations: No information.

3. Mandate role of above mechanism/council: The Department of the Environment (Environment Policy Section) has lead responsibility nationally for the implementation of Agenda 21. Reflecting Ireland's widely based approach towards the promotion and achievement of sustainable development, the Department's role over recent years has been to secure better regulation, monitoring and information systems through the establishment and build-up of the Environmental Protection Agency; to complete a modern environmental legislative code; to improve arrangements for public participation in planning and development control; to encourage the integration of environmental considerations in the policies and work of other Government Departments; and to promote environmental education and awareness; improve access to environmental information and develop partnerships with non-governmental organisations.
While new structures have not been developed specifically to coordinate Agenda 21 actions, arrangements to monitor and review the implementation of sustainable development policies nationally will be formalised in the context of the National Sustainable Development Strategy.

4. If available, attach a diagram (organization chart) showing national coordination structure and linkages between ministries: N/A

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IRELAND

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 2: **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES (with special emphasis on TRADE)**

NATIONAL PRIORITY: No information.

STATUS REPORT: No information.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information.

3. **Major Groups:** No information.

4. **Finance:** No information.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS					

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: Ireland is currently preparing a National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS). NAPS was initiated by the Government after the United Nations Social Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1995. The strategy involves setting out the extent of poverty, an identification of main themes as well as formulating strategic responses for combating poverty in Ireland. In 1997, a report, addressing the achievements to date in developing the strategy will be forwarded to the United Nations.

The National Anti-Poverty Strategy has, to date, involved the following: (i) The preparation of a statement setting out the nature and extent of poverty and social exclusion in Ireland; (ii) The evaluation of submissions from the voluntary and community sector, the social partners and other interested bodies and individuals; (iii) The selection of key issues/policy areas which must be addressed if poverty and social exclusion are to be tackled, i.e. educational disadvantage, unemployment, income adequacy, regenerating disadvantaged communities with concentrations of poverty, and tackling poverty in rural areas; (iv) Regional seminars to discuss the submissions received were held; (v) Five key theme sub-groups were established to study unemployment, income adequacy, rural poverty, educational disadvantage and disadvantaged areas with concentrations of poverty. These groups included Government Departments, trade union and employers bodies and the national anti-poverty networks (which are state-funded voluntary groups).

The sub-groups were established to identify policy areas which cut across Departments and strategic responses to be developed. As part of this process a public consultation seminar has been held by each of the sub-groups. All the working groups have now or are in the process of reporting to the NAPS Inter-departmental Committee. Each Government Department has been asked to prepare a statement in relation to poverty, after reviewing the key issues/themes already identified by the strategy, within their own areas of responsibility. A commitment to the contiued development of NAPS has been included in the new three-year national agreement between the Government and the social partners (employers, employees and farming organisations) entitled "Partnership 2000".

The next steps in the process will involve the following: (i) A review is being carried out to identify what institutional mechanisms should be put in place to ensure that the issue of social exclusion remains a high priority; (ii) The engagement and involvement of the voluntary and community sector and those members of society with first hand experience of poverty will continue and additional public consultation seminars will take place at key intervals; (iii) The finalisation of the overview statement will take place particularly in light of two new studies carried out by the independent Economic and Social Research Institute for the Department of Social Welfare and the Combat Poverty Agency, "Poverty in the 1990s - Evidence from the Living in Ireland Survey" and "A Review of the Commission on Social Welfare's Minimum Adequate Income", both of which were published in December 1996. These studies provide a wide variety of very useful information on poverty levels in Ireland from 1994 data and will be a key input to the NAPS process. The second report reviews the findings of the Commission on Social Welfare which reported in 1986 on what constituted a minimally adequate income for those receiving social welfare payments. It is intended that a report to the UN setting out progress achieved to date will be finalised very soon. Proposals for the next phase of development of the strategy will also go to Government very soon.

The Combat Poverty Agency (CPA) was established by statute in 1986 under the Combat Poverty Act. It is under the aegis of the Department of Social Welfare. It has the following four main functions: (1) To advise and make recommendations to the Minister for Social Welfare on all aspects of economic and social planning in relation to poverty in the State; (2) The initiation and evaluation of measures aimed at overcoming poverty in the State; (3) The examination of the nature, causes and extent of poverty in the State along with the promotion, commission and interpretation of research; and (4) The promotion of greater public understanding of the nature, causes and extent of poverty in the State and the measures necessary to overcome it.

The Agency is involved in a range of programmes and activities to combat poverty. Exchequer support for the three Irish projects in the third EU Poverty Programme were, for example, channelled through CPA. The Agency also funds a number of representative national voluntary anti-poverty networks including the Community Workers Co-operative, the European Anti-Poverty Network, the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed, Irish rural Link and the irish Traveller Movement.

STATUS: (Cont'd)

The Department of Social Welfare supports local self help and community development initiatives to assist people as individuals and as members of communities develop the confidence and capacity to participate as partners alongside statutory agencies and others in local development initiatives. This support is available through a range of grant schemes:

- The Scheme of Grants for Voluntary organisations is one under which once off grants for equipment, premises and other once off purposes can be made to a range of voluntary and community groups;
- The Scheme of grants to Locally-Based Women's Groups, Men's Groups and Lone Parent's Groups is one under which support is provided for groups engaged in personal development, second chance education, skills based training, community development and leadership courses and activities;
- The Community Development Programme (CDP) which provides three-year funding towards the staffing and equipping of (currently 80) local resource centres and other community development projects;
- The Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) funds a network of local projects to tackle the problems of moneylending and overindebtedness.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The Social Welfare Acts are reviewed each year. Other legislation concerned with social housing, health, education and community employment has a legal framework for anti-poverty action.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Please refer to the Status Report.

3. Major Groups: The Local Development Programme support, in partnership with local companies, facilitates alleviation of poverty in disadvantaged areas. This involves cooperation with trade unions, employers, farmers etc. In 1993, voluntary support helped the Government establish the National Economic and Social Forum. The Forum provides an opportunity through a structured mechanism to contribute to the development of initiatives to tackle unemployment at both national and local levels. It consists of a wide base of 49 representatives, including those representing the disadvantaged and the unemployed. The National Women's Council, which is funded by the Department of Equality and Law Reform, is a representative forum of women's organizations in Ireland. The output of the Council is being considered by decision-making bodies concerned with empowering disadvantaged groups, including women.

4. Finance: Funding for community development groups, women's groups and other groups representing disadvantaged communities is supported by the Department of Social Welfare. The Combat Poverty Agency, which comes under the aegis of that Department, also supports community development and directly funds a national network of organizations representing the sector.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: The Department of Social Welfare is represented on the High Level Group on Social Exclusion which was established by the European Commission in 1995. The group was established to exchange information on developments affecting social exclusion and to assist the Commission in the preparation of its strategies and initiatives.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1985	1990	1992	Latest 1996
Unemployment (%)	17.7	17.2	15.5	11.9
Population living in absolute poverty (See note.)				
Social Welfare expenditure as a % of Current Government Expenditure	30.2	33.4	35.0	34.7 (1995)

Note: Absolute poverty is a term often used to describe outright destitution, the strugle to survive, not having enough food to stay alive, not having enough clean water to avoid dehydration or infection by life threatening diseases, or not having basic shelter from the elements. In industrialized countries such as Ireland, poverty is often understood in a relative way rather than an absolute way. Relative poverty is described with reference to the prevailing socio-economic conditions of the society in question. No figures are available for absolute poverty in Ireland. However, in 1994, 8.4% of individuals were living below the 40% relative income poverty line.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

• National policy objectives/focus

The Transport Operational Programme, 1994-1999, reflects a development of previous policy, which was largely concerned with national roads. The Programme has put an increased emphasis on rail transport, urban public transport and local road networks, while recognising the importance of the interurban road network to the attainment of the objective of economic and social cohesion.

The Dublin Transportation Initiative (DTI) includes proposals for the increased use of public transportation. Effective action on traffic management and enforcement is acknowledged as, (including parking restraint) essential, particularly in Dublin City, if the DTI strategy is to be successfully implemented and its objective is shifting commuters from the private car to public transport is to be achieved. At the same time it is recognised that there is a need to provide for certain business, shopping, leisure and tourist trips by private car as part of the policy of supporting the continued viability of the city centre. Almost $600 million will be invested in public transport and enforcement measures over the period 1994 to 1999.

One of the objectives in the National Development Plan and the Community Support Framework, is a strong management of tourism policy, with special attention being paid to measures which will encourage a greater seasonal spread of activities. Since 1990, Dublin has had a permanent ban on marketing, sale and distribution of bituminous coal. In 1995, this practice was adopted in Cork. In connection with these bans, a special weekly allowance (in 1995, £3 weekly) paid by the Department of Social Welfare to lower income groups has helped overcome the increased cost of environmentally friendly fuels in comparison to bituminous coal. These schemes cost IR£6 million and IR£1.6 million for Dublin and Cork, respectively.

• National targets

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The National Development Plan and the Transport Operational Programme (1994-1995) are the major policy directives in this area.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Under the Transportation Operational Plan major infrastructural investments will be undertaken with special regard to the use environmental impact assessment procedures and public participation.

3. Major Groups: Please refer to the Status Report.

4. Finance: Under the Transport Operational Programme 1994-1999, the investment in railroads has increased from 3% of the total amount available in the programme for the period 1989-1993, to 11% for the period 1994-1999. Urban transport has increased in the same period from 2% to 14%, and non-national roads from 8% to 17%.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Ireland has participated in the preparatory committee for the planned UNECE Conference of Ministers in relation to transport and the environment. Ireland also participates in the THERMIE and the SAVE programs within EU. The aim of the former is to promote new technologies for improving energy efficiency and to enhance the use of alternative energy sources. The objective of the latter is to promote efficient energy use on the demand side, focusing on key areas including boilers, buildings and car inspection systems and energy audits. Ireland has been cooperating with Northern Ireland in a series of conferences addressing energy efficiency in buildings, industry etc. Ireland has a natural gas linkage with the U.K., the European Continent and beyond.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1985	1990	1992	Latest 199_	
GDP per capita (current US$)	5,504	12,775	14,484		
Real GDP growth (%)	3.1	9.0	4.9		
Annual energy consumption per capita (Kg. of oil equivalent per capita)	2,603 [1]	2,629	2,798		
Motor vehicles in use per 1000 inhabitants	229.9	271.8	292.2		
Other data					

[1] 1989.

Government policies affecting consumption and production.

1. **Goals and Agents (Stakeholders)**

Indicate with a (✓) those agents which your Governments policies are meant most to influence.

Agents Goals	Producers	Local authorities	Central Government	Households	Civil society
Material efficiency	X			X	
Energy efficiency:					
Transport	X	X			
Housing		X		X	
Other					
Waste:					
Reduce	X			X	
Reuse					
Recycle	X			X	

Comments:

2. Means & Measures and Agents (Stakeholders)

Indicate with an (R) those agents who assume primary responsibility for any of the policy measures indicated; indicate with an (I) the agents for which the impact is expected to be especially significant.

Means & Measures / Agents	Producers	Local authorities	Central Government	House-holds	Civil Society
Improving understanding and analysis			R	I	I
Information and education (e.g., radio/TV/press)					
Research					
Evaluating environmental claims	I		R	I	I
Form partnerships	R	R			
Applying tools for modifying behaviour					
Community based strategies					
Social incentives/disincentives (e.g., ecolabelling)			R		
Regulatory instrumeuts	I	R	R		
Economic incentives/disincentives	I		R		I
Voluntary agreements of producer responsibility for aspects of product life cycle					
Provision of enabling facilities and infrastructure (e.g., transportation alternatives, recycling)	I	R	R		
Procurement policy					
Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing performance					
Action campaign					
Other (specify)					

Comments:

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

Ireland is currently working on a National Strategy for Sustainable Demographic Development. The Strategy will address issues linking the environment and demographics in an Irish context. Issues include the depopulation of rural areas combined with the increasing population in the urban areas, and as a consequence, the economic pressure of migration and emigration. The Government provides universal services for family planning. As a member of the EU, Ireland has adopted the principles of the Resolution of 1992 put forward by the Development Council for usage in aid-programmes. The basic guidelines of the resolution are: non-coercion and non-discrimination; observance of the rights of individuals and couples to choose the number and the spacing of their children; integration of population and development policies; and wider attention paid to the needs of individuals, families and the community.

☑ Check the appropriate boxes below:

• Governments view on population growth	☐ Too high	☐ Too low	☐ Satisfactory	
• Governments view on fertility level	☐ Too high	☐ Too low	☐ Satisfactory	
	To lower the rate	**To maintain status quo**	**To raise the rate**	
• Governments intervention on population growth	☐	☐	☐	
• Governments view on intervention on fertility level	☐	☐	☐	

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** The Departments of Health and Finance are responsible for this sector.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information.

3. **Major Groups:** In the policies related to family planning, NGOs provide complementary services to those offered by the Health Authorities. The Irish Family Planning Association and the Dublin Well Woman Center are important participants in this process. In June 1995, a discussion document on special health needs for women was published and will be the basis of a widespread consultation with women and those interested in improving the health and welfare of women. This consultation will in time become the foundation of a National Plan made by the Department of Health to be adopted by the Government.

4. **Finance:** The Government is funding the NGOs that are involved in providing the complementary services.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** In 1993, Ireland made its first contribution to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The Government has subsequently announced that an increase in the contribution is to be expected. Ireland's policies in this area are consistent with EU principles.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1990	1993	Latest 199_	
Population (Thousands) mid-year estimates	3,503	3,563		
Annual rate of increase (1990-1993)		0.6		
Surface area (Km^2)		70,284		
Population density (people/Km^2)		51		
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

Ireland has improved the general level of health during the last decades. However, much remains to be done. Life expectancy is still lower than the EU average and, in 1992, over one-fifth of all deaths in Ireland were under the age of 65. In 1994, a Strategy for Health was designed. Its objective is to improve the average life expectancy, which includes an effort to minimize the main causes of premature deaths, namely: cardiovascular disease, cancer and accidents. Together with the National Health Strategy, a Four-Year Action Plan was set up. The Plan details risk reduction targets and action programs. These focus on key issues which contribute significantly to premature deaths. Monitoring of the progress in relation to the targets will be of importance to the Strategy in general and will also serve as background material for a data base which is to be developed. In 1995, the Government of Ireland indicated its intention to increase the financial and technical assistance to Health Care.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** Please refer to the Status Report.

3. **Major Groups:** Please refer to Chapter 5.

4. **Finance:** No information.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** In 1993, it was proposed to examine, under the Bilateral Aid Programme, what specific projects in AIDS-related areas might be undertaken in cooperation with the recipient country.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	1994	
Life expectancy at birth Male Female	 69.6 74.6	 71.6 77.3	75 (M+F)	
Infant mortality (per 1000 live births)	15	8	6	
Maternal mortality rate (per 100000 live births)	7 [1]	4 [2]		
Access to safe drinking water (% of population)				
Access to sanitation services (% of population)				
Other data				

[1] 1979-81.

[2] 1985-89.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: Between 1926 and 1991, the urban population in Ireland increased from 32% to almost 60% of the total population. The five largest urban centers - Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford - among them have 67% of the total urban population.

Up to the mid 1980s, there had been a dramatic decrease of both economic activity and population in the core centres of the large cities. Large central areas were left under-utilized or derelict as a result of, for example, a decline in port-related and traditional city center industries, changes in retail shopping patterns, the emergence of large-scale suburban residential areas and a movement of business and commercial activities to the periphery areas of the cities.

Since 1986, however, a significant turnaround has been achieved, largely as a result of urban renewal schemes based on tax incentives which were first introduced in that year. The central tenet of the schemes was to target the core areas of our urban centres which have suffered from the worst effects of urban decay and to make incentives available in those areas which would encourage the private sector to invest there.

A recently completed consultants' study on the impacts of the schemes concluded that they had been highly successful in achieving their aim of leveraging private sector investment towards the targeted areas. Former derelict and decaying inner urban areas have been transformed. This has had considerable positive impacts in terms of sustainability. Greater use is now being made of existing infrastructure in city and town centres, with less developmental pressures on the green belts in the suburbs. In addition, the greater number of people "living in town" means there is less reliance on the motor car for commuting to work.

In addition to the tax incentive schemes, the Urban and Village Renewal Sub-Programme of the operational Programme for Local Urban and Rural Development provides for funding to be made available for measures which are designed to promote sustainable physical, social and economic revitalisation of urban centres ranging from the smaller villages to the larger cities throughout the country. Among the measures which are being implemented is one which funds a major initiative in each of the five main cities, each of which is based on an interatedaction plan for a key area. A range of urban improvement actions, including landscaping, pedestrianisation and eradication of derelict sites, is also being implemented in the smaller urban centres. The principal objective is to improve the physical environment of towns in order to attract and sustain an enterprise base, as well as support tourism and living conditions generally.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: In Ireland, planning for dealing with major human settlements emergencies are primarily a matter for the main emergency units, but other agencies (e.g. Red Cross, Civil Defense, etc.) may be involved in the response to incidents.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: There is an Irish Standard Specification (IS) for building products which is the responsibility of the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NASI). Ireland must recognize, as an EU Member State, building materials equivalent to the IS.

3. Major Groups: The responsibility of accommodating homeless adults lies with local authorities, who are also responsible for providing accommodation for travellers. The Health Boards and the Department of Health share responsibility for sheltering people under the age of 18. Urban-management rests with local authorities.

A scheme of capital assistance is available to approved bodies providing accommodation for people who qualify - elderly, homeless and handicapped persons, victims of violence and desertion, single parents or people otherwise accepted as qualified for local authority housing.

4. Finance: The Urban Renewal Plan for 1994-1999 will have an implementation cost of IR£ 92.5 million over the five years. Funding for this programme is pooled together from the Exchequer, EU and local authorities. The local authorities provide a rental subsidy scheme whereby people qualified for receiving the benefit are paid an ongoing subsidy according to their situation. Local authorities also provide incentives for home ownership cooperatives.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: No information.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1990	1995	
Urban population in % of total population	56.9	57.5	
Annual rate of growth of urban population (%)	-0.1	0.5	
Largest city population (in % of total population)	26.2	25.6	
Other data			

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

(See pages vii and viii at the beginning of the profile)

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

In 1978, the Ministry of the Environment was assigned general responsibility for the promotion and protection of the physical environment. Ireland has an Environment Action Programme which at a national level formulates environmental targets and policy objectives. This programme was reviewed in 1993 for the period 1993-1997, and the Government made commitments to speed up its implementation. In December 1994, a Government programme was published which included a commitment to adopt both the "precautionary" and the "polluter pays" principles, as well as integrated environmental protection considerations in all policy areas and at all levels of Government. By early 1997, a National Sustainable Development Strategy was published, with an objective of providing a cross-sectoral framework for all sectoral plans and programmes related to Sustainable Development, and of identifying future objectives. The Strategy also led to the establishment of a National Coordinating Mechanism for Sustainable Development. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is primarily used in relation to development proposals and projects. The Environmental Protection Agency has issued guidelines on the content of Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the EIA process.

For the period 1994-1999 Ireland has adopted both a European Community Support Framework (CSF) and a National Development Plan. Both the CSF and the Plan have as their primary objective the enhancement of Ireland's economic performance through sustainable growth and development. They are both multi-sectoral and cover a vast range of Agenda 21 issues. The Plan is primarily designed for addressing the needs of industry, tourism and rural development.

In addition to the measures mentioned above, Ireland also relies on environmental legislation which is consistent with the recommendations of UNCED and with the EU Fifth Environment Action Programme, "Towards Sustainability".

In October, 1994, a Green Network of Government Departments was established. The concept of the network is to promote better exchange of information among departments and to support the work of the environment units which have been established in the main economic Departments.

A Parliamentary Committee on Sustainable Development has also been established.

The Department of the Environment has concluded an agreement with the National Economic and Social Research Institute on setting up an Environmental Policy Research Center to study the economic aspects of environment policy.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure (please also refer to the fact sheet):** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for regulations and control of activities which pose a high pollution risk. The agency also handles many other tasks, including, supervision of local authorities, research, advisory and information functions.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information.

3. **Major Groups:** The Advisory Committee to EPA includes representatives of environmental NGOs, and the industry, agriculture, education and research sectors.

4. **Finance:** The European Regional Fund is supporting the Operational Programme 1994-1999.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

The Montreal Protocol and its Amendments

- Montreal Protocol (1987) ratified 10 August 1992.
- London Amendment (1990) ratified 10 August 1992.
- Copenhagen Amendment (1992) signed in 1996
- The latest report(s) to the Montreal Protocol Secretariat were prepared in 19--

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

- UNFCCC was ratified 20 April 1994.
- The latest report to the UNFCCC Secretariat was submitted in 199-.

Additional comments relevant to this chapter

The Government is promoting policies and programmes in a wide range of areas concerned with this sector, including energy efficiency, environmentally sound and efficient transport, and industrial pollution control. In 1995, a scheme of Power Purchase Agreements amounting to 111 MW was approved. The scheme includes 34 alternative energy projects providing over 100 megawatts, at a cost of £70 million, over the next fifteen years. A competition to secure a 30 MW Biomass/Waste to energy electricity generating plant is nearing completion and further renewable energy targets have been set, up to 2010. Ireland is currently complying with EU Regulation EC 3093/94, which adopted targets to phase out CFCs (except for essential use) by 1995, halons by 1994, carbon tetrachloride by 1995, HCFC by 2015, 1,1,1,-trichloroethane by 1996, HBFCs and curbs on methyl bromide by 1996.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: EPA and the Department of the Environment are the institutions primarily responsible for this sector. Post-Rio, the Air Quality Act, 1987, and the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, have been reviewed, taking into account the measures recommended in Agenda 21. Ireland has also implemented emissions standards to reduce the adverse environmental effects of benzene, sulphur and lead.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Ireland's capacity to observe and assess transboundary atmospheric pollution and to exchange information is sufficient. In 1994, the Irish Energy Center was established to co-ordinate the implementation of the National Energy Conservation Programme and other Government policy on energy efficiency, renewable energies and research. The Government has conducted surveys concerning air pollution and selective limited observations regarding emissions from traffic. The Government has also facilitated training opportunities, data and information exchange at both national and international levels.

3. Major Groups: Participation by industry and therefore the private sector is crucial for meeting the objectives of the EU within this sector.

4. Finance: Under the Energy Audit Grant Scheme the Irish Energy Center provides grants of 40%, subjected to a maximum of IR£5,000, to energy users in the industrial, institutional and commercial sectors for the hiring of consultants to make energy audits. The Energy Efficient Investment Support Scheme provides grant assistance to energy users also within the above mentioned sectors. The grants paid out are for energy technology and amount to 40% of the investment subjected to a IR£250,000 maximum.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Government spending in multilateral trust funds, including the Vienna-Montreal Trust Fund, went from $246,414 in 1993, to $ 321,754 in 1995. After Rio and in addition to the global conventions, Ireland has acceded to a number of other international agreements concerning transboundary air pollution, including the Sofia Protocol and the Second Sulphur Protocol, both in 1994.

Please also refer to chapter 4.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 199_ *	
CO_2 emissions (eq. million tons)		30.7 *1	32.8 *2	a
SO_x *	222k *	178 kt*	157 kt *	b
NO_x *	83 kt *	116 kt *	122.5 kt *	c
CH_4 *		800 kt *	800 kt	d
Consumption of ozone depleting substances (Tons)				e
Expenditure on air pollution abatement in US$ equivalents (million)				f

* Other data taken from 1996 National Report: main sources of the above-mentioned emissions: a. energy; b. energy production 30% industrial combustion 50%; c. energy production 10-20%, transport 30%; d. agriculture. National fig. 2000: CO_2 52%; NO_2 20%; CH_4 28%.

[1] 1990 figures for CO_2 + CH_4 are actual million tons.

[2] 1994 estimate is provisional.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 10: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

A system of land-use management, in line with that envisaged in Agenda 21, has been in operation in Ireland since 1964. Under the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 1993, each of Ireland's 88 planning authorities has been obliged to prepare, at least every 5 years, a Development Plan. The Government is preparing a series of guidelines on land use issues for local planning authorities and An Board Pleanala (Planning Appeals Board). Guidelines on Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures were published on 31 July 1996, and Guidelines on Wind Farm Development were published on 19 September 1996. Guidelines on Forestry Development, high amenity landscapes and the scope and content of development plans are now being prepared. Taken together, the National Sustainable Development Strategy and the guidelines will provide a comprehensive policy framework for land use planning.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: Legislation with respect to land use planning is supplemented by administrative and policy measures at the national level. Environmental Impact Assessment procedures have been incorporated into the planning system and are also applied to public development proposals. The National Department of the Environment issues circulars and guidelines to local land planning authorities to advise and inform them of issues to be taken into consideration in the operation of the planning process. The Department also monitors the overall operation of the planning process.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: No information.

3. Major Groups: Decisions by local authorities may be appealed to the independent national Planning Appeals Board by any individual or organization. The Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) which provides special grants for farming in an environmentally friendly way is available to landowners in all parts of the country. Additional payments are available in certain designated areas in order to solve specific environmental problems, to protect important habitat sites and to give farmers the opportunity to respond to market demands for the supply of organic food and the provision of tourism/leisure facilities. Local authorities are taken into account by the National Department of the Environment on issues related to the operation of the planning process.

4. Finance: Please refer to #3.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Ireland is represented on the European Union Committee on Spatial Development and on the informal Council of Ministers for Regional and Spatial Development. Ireland is also a member of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning, under the Council of Europe. The EIA of Ireland's land planning takes full account of the relevant EU directives.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: The area under forest in Ireland has been steadily increasing from the 1% under forest at the turn of the century and is currently 8%. The annual afforestation targets are 25,000 hectares/p/a up to the year 2000 and 20,000 ha/p/a thereafter to the year 2030 and should increase the area under forest to 17%. Harvesting is controlled by a licensing procedure, of which replanting is a basic condition. Because of the relatively young age of the forest estate, only about 5,000 hectares is being harvested (and replaced) annually.

The forest estate is predominantly Sitka spruce, an exotic conifer species, but there is an increasing emphasis on diversity in species and on the planting of broadleaves in particular, for which the target is 20% of planting. Irish forests are managed primarily for timber production on the basis of sustained yield.

In 1996, the Government published a Strategic Plan for the Development of the Forestry Sector in Ireland, a long-term development plan for the sector up to the year 2030.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry is responsible for national forest policy. Public forests are managed by the State company, Coillte Teoranta. EIA and planning permission is required for afforestation projects over 70 hectares. A range of environmental controls is applied to all afforestation projects including guidelines in relation to the landscape, fisheries and archaelogy.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: The Forest Service has produced and distributed a series of school video packs on forestry. Since 1989, courses on forest establishment and maintenance, forest harvesting and the downstream timber industry have been developed in addition to forest degree courses. Two thousand trainees have graduated from these courses.

3. Major Groups: Some 70% of Irish forests are owned by Coillte Teoranta, the State forest company, reflecting the dominant role of the State in forestry development. The balance of ownership is changing, however, as the private sector, and in particular farmers, becomes increasingly involved. In 1995, 27% of afforestation was undertaken by Coillte and 63% by the private sector, of which 85% was undertaken by farmers.

Consultation with the public on forestry has been on an *ad hoc* basis. In early 1994, a wide range of interested parties and the general public were invited to make submissions in relation to the Strategic Plan for the Development of the Forestry Sector in Ireland.

4. Finance: The total investment planned in the period 1989-1999 is IR£521 million, of which some IR£170 million was spent under the Forestry Operational Programme 1989-93. The contribution from EU is IR£303 million of the total amount. The Strategic Plan for the Development of the Forestry Sector in Ireland estimates that the cost of the afforestation programme to the end of 2030 will be over £3 billion.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Ireland participates in EU forest health surveys; FAO forest related activities; the Pan-European Process on the Protection of Forests in Europe, which is developing the concept of sustainable forest management in Europe and the criteria and indicators by which it can be measured; and the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1985	1990	Latest 1995	
Forest Area (ha)	434,000	482,000	570,000	
Protected forest area (ha)			5,200.	
Roundwood production (m^3)	300,000	400,000	700,000	
Deforestation rate (Km^2/annum)	0	0	0	
Afforestation rate (Km^2/annum)	5,200	15,800	23,700	

Other data

. Ireland has only a very small area remaining of indigenous forest. About 5,200 ha are now protected by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in national parks and nature reserves. We have no information on the relevant figures for previous years.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

NATIONAL PRIORITY	**N/A**	

STATUS REPORT:

International Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification Particularly in Africa

Convention signed in October 1994.

Additional comments relevant to this chapter

No information.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information.

3. **Major Groups:** No information.

4. **Finance:** No information.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 199_	
Land affected by desertification (Km^2)				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: Soil erosion as a result of overgrazing is a significant problem on mountains and highland areas, as the number of mountain sheep has increased. In 1992, with the agricultural policy reform, the number of sheep in Ireland has been tied to a quota which should prevent a further increase. A change was made to the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) in October 1995 to make it more attractive and feasible for upland farmers in designated "degraded" upland areas to reduce or maintain sheep numbers at sustainable levels. This measure is mandatory for REPS participants in these areas. Other measures include the following:

A condition was introduced into the national administration of the Ewe Premium Scheme in 1994, that flockowners who graze sheep on degraded commonages and are not participating in REPS who wished to acquire additional quota rights, give an undertaking not to graze their additional ewes on the "degraded areas" between 1 November and 30 April each year. Flockowners who do not comply with this requirement lose entitlement to Ewe Premium and Rural World Premium for the year in question and the following year.

EU Council Regulation 3013/89 (Article 5a) provides for the prohibition on the leasing and transfer of sheep quota rights from the 1994 marketing year between disadvantaged areas and non-disadvantaged areas in Ireland.

A committee consisting of representatives of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, REPS planners and farming organisations has recently devosed a set of rules for the application of REPS in proposed Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs). In addition, large areas of proposed NHAs are to be further designated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under EU Wildlife Legislation, which will ensure that sustainable farming is maintained in these areas.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information.

3. **Major Groups:** No information.

4. **Finance:** No information.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: Ireland has experienced an intensification of stockfarming leading to excessive nutrient enrichment of some waters, particularly by nitrogen and phosphates. Overgrazing, especially by sheep, has also become an issue of concern. In 1992, an agreement on a Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was reached. The policy was accompanied by two schemes for investment aid: the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) to promote environmentally friendly farming, and a complementary scheme for on-farm investment measures called "Control of Farm Yard Pollution" (CFP).

The Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS), the Control of Farm Pollution Scheme (CFP) and the Farm Improvement Programme (FIP) have major roles to play in the prevention of nutrient enrichment of water courses. All participants in REPS are required to draw up a nutrient management plan in order to maintain the quality of water resources by minimising nutrient losses from agriculture. Under CFP and FIP, participants receive grant aid for the provision of aid towards the provision of animal housing and waste storage facilities.

The Erne Catchment Nutrient Management Scheme (ECNMS) was launched during 1996 under the EU's Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland. This Scheme offers a nutrient management service to intensive farmers on both sides of the Border along the River Erne in Counties Cavan and Monaghan in the Republic and Fermanagh in Northern Ireland.

Organic crop production is governed by Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91. A draft regulation on organic livestock production is currently under preparation at EU level.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry has approved three Organic Certification Bodies who provide advice, information and certification of farms which are in conversion to the organic system of production. In addition, the Department's Operational Programme for Agriculture, Rural Development and Forestry, 1994-1999 contains a Scheme of Aid for the Development of the Organic Farming Sector. A number of allocations were made under the Scheme for 1996, and further allocations will be made for 1997, 1998 and 1999.

In addition, additional financial payments are available to organic farmers in the Department's Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS).

There were 430 organic farmers in Ireland at the end of 1995, covering a land area of 12,400 hectares.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry administers the Operational Programme for the Control of Farmyard Pollution. A Code of Good Practice to Protect Waters from Pollution by Nitrates" was launched in July 1996 by the Ministers for Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Environment, which is required by Directive 91/676/EEC (the Nitrates Directive). This Code prescribes methods to prevent or minimise the pollution of waters from nitrates by adopting certain farm waste management techniques.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Research is ongoing, funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, in the area of sustainable agriculture. Under the Teagasc (agriculture and food research and development authority) Environment Protection Programme under the Structural Funds, research is to be focused on the following priority areas: (i) the developoment of viable nutrient and waste management strategies designed to minimise the impact on the environment of agriculture and other developments in rural areas; (ii) the development of strategies for the enhancement of rural landscapes and the ecological management of set-aside areas, including habitat re-establishment studies. Sub-Programmes covered by this research programme include Sustainable Farming Systems; the Environmental Impact of Phosphorus; the Environmental Impact of Nitrogen; Waste Management; Land Use Management; and Soil Fertility. These projects will provide the scientific basis for the implementation of EU and National Legislation pertaining to agriculture and the environment.

3. Major Groups: Farmers are the key major group in meeting the objectives of the Operational Programme. Substantial assistance has been provided by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry in recent years in grant aid for pollution control facilities under the Control of Farm Pollution Scheme (CFP) and the Farm Improvement Programme (FIP). A total of about 1 million cattle and 800,000 sheep have been housed, with effluent storage storage of 6.1 million cubic metres and fodder storage of 2.6 million tonnes. 26,000 applicants were grant aided to a total of £120 million between 1986 and 1995 under the FIP. A further £145 million was allocated in grant aid to some 25,000 applicants under the CFP Scheme between 1989 and 1993 and under funds agreed for the period 1994-1999.

4. Finance: See 3 above.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: No information.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1985	1990	Latest 1995
Agricultural land (Km^2)	57,050	56,350	43,885.
Agricultural land as % of total land area	81.2	80.2	63.7.
Agricultural land (m^2 per capita)	16,116	16,086	
	1989/90	**1992/93**	**Latest 199_**
Consumption of fertilizers per (Kg/Km^2 of agricultural land as of 1990)	12,534	11,517	14,624.1

Other data
. It should be borne in mind that the 1991 census of agriculture removed approximately 500,000 hectares from the figure for "agricultural area".

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

Convention on Biological Diversity
Signed in 1992.
Ratified in 1996.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
Signed in 1974.

Additional comments relevant to this chapter

A National biodiversity plan is being drawn up in accordance with Article 6 of the Biological Diversity Convention. The plan will integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into all sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

In 1992, the Government decided to preserve 550,000 hectares (7% of the state area) for Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs). These sites are reserved for Ireland's native flora and fauna. To date, over 100 special protection areas (SPAs) have been designated under EU Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive). Regulations to transpose EU Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) into Irish law are at an advanced stage. Following the making of these regulations, special areas of conservation (SACs) will be designated. Proposals are currently being prepared for the inclusion in the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) of a system of compensating for curtailed farming practices. Due to the mostly extensive nature of Irish agriculture, landscape quality and habitat biodiversity has been well conserved in addition to hedges/streams and field systems. Improvement in the authorisation process for plant protection products and the continuing success of Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) which contains measures to retain wildlife habitats, should act to preserve these valuable resources into the future.

In 1995, there was no indication of species loss over the previous 10 years. However, some species are in serious decline due to changes in farming practices. Habitat destruction is thought to be the main reason for the decrease in biological diversity. Pollution and over-harvesting (mainly in the marine environment) are also of concern. Ireland has set aside protected areas, including national parks and nature reserves. Regulation of exploited species takes place, as does *ex-situ* maintenance of threatened populations and establishment of pilot studies in restoration ecology.

A Heritage Council was established on a statutory basis in 1995, the functions of which include, inter alia, proposing policies and priorities for the identification, protection, preservation and enhancement of the national heritage and the promotion of interest and knowledge in the national heritage.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: Ireland can meet the requirements of jurisdiction of the Convention on Biological Diversity, via the Wildlife Act, 1976. In addition, Ireland has ratified the Berne Convention on Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. Ireland also intends to ratify the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the objectives of which are already in force in Ireland through EEC Regulation No. 3626/82.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Ireland has conducted surveys on Areas of Scientific Interest (ASIs) to review old areas and to set up new ones.

3. Major Groups: Farmers who have land designated for Natural Heritage Areas containing habitats listed in EU Habitats and Birds Directives are eligible for higher payments under the Rural Environment Protection Scheme.

4. Finance:

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Ireland participates in international conservation, for example by cooperating with Northern Ireland authorities on protected areas for birds. Also within the EU, Ireland has obtained funding for purchasing threatened areas.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1992	Latest 199_	
Protected area as % of total land area	0.4		
	1990	**Latest 199_**	
Number of threatened species	14		
Other data			

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 16: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

Biotechnology is being used for in-house treatment of waste and the recovery of energy for re-use. Ireland has both legislation dealing with environmentally sound management of biotechnology and a broad based research capacity (please refer to #1 and #2).

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** The Ministry for the Environment is responsible for the legal and political issues relating to the environmentally sound management of biotechnology.

The Genetically Modified Organisms Regulation, 1994, came into effect on 1 January, 1995. It gives legal effect to two EU directives on the contained use of genetically modified micro-organisms (90/219/EEC) and the deliberate use of genetically modified organisms (90/220/EEC). EPA is the competent authority for the purpose of monitoring and regulations.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** Ireland has brought together biotechnology expertise in one organization, Bio Research Ireland. One of its key functions is to raise awareness of biotechnology. Almost half of all University-based researchers work in biotechnology.

3. **Major Groups:** No information.

4. **Finance:** Since 1985, the Government has been funding research within the sector.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 17: PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea
Signed in 1982.
Ratified in 1996.

See also the attached tables on the next pages.

Ireland is anticipating a ratification of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment agreed upon in Paris on 22 September, 1992.

Within the National Development Plan and the Community Support Framework, special emphasis has been given to fisheries development measures undertaken. In 1995, a strategy document for Coastal Management was prepared to assist the national policy in this area.

Two important targets were established in this area. In July 1992, the disposal of industrial wastes at sea was no longer permitted. December 1998 is the deadline for ending disposal of sewage sludge at sea. The result of this is that dredged materials from capital and maintenance works at harbours will be the only waste of any significance being disposed of in Irish coastal waters.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The Department of the Marine (DOM), on ad hoc consultation with relevant departments, is responsible for the preparation of the Coastal Zone Management Strategy. DOM is also responsible for implementing policies in relation to aquaculture and other developments on the foreshore (as defined in the Foreshore Acts, 1933 and 1992). DOM, through the Irish Marine Service, is responsible for addressing oil pollution and other pollution incidents at sea. For any major projects, EIA through the statutory development consent processes is required. The "polluter pays principle" underlies Irish environmental legislation, including the Local Government (Water Pollution Acts, 1977 and 1990, and the Sea Pollution Act, 1991). Ireland's law on water quality for shellfish implements the requirements of the Council Directive 79/923/EEC.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: The official Governmental bodies have access to technology capable of identifying major types of pollution. However, Ireland has financial constraints which result in limited assessments made of the environment of coastal and marine areas.

The Martin Ryan Marine Research Institute of Galway University participates in international projects on, *inter alia*, air-sea gas exchanges and studies on the ocean's thermal skin.

The European Directory of Marine Environmental database gives adequate data on practically all areas relevant for the Irish marine context. A major research project entitled ECOPRO (Environmentally Friendly Coastal Protection) is being undertaken in Ireland, funded by the EU LIFE Programme.

3. Major Groups: No information.

4. Finance: Ireland has made a contribution of US$ 15,000 to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Small Island Developing States.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Ireland is participating in the OSPAR Convention. In January, 1995 Ireland ratified the MARPOL Convention. Ireland also participates in the work of ICES fish stock, which is used in EU in the annual setting of Total Allowable Catches and Quotas.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 1994	
Catches of marine species (metric tons)*	134,887	227,866	297,172	
Population in coastal areas				
Population served by waste water treatment (% of country's total population)				
Discharges of oil into coastal waters (metric tons)				
Releases of phosphate into coastal waters (metric tons)				
Releases of nitrate into coastal waters (metric tons)				
Other data				

* 1996 National Report.

Chapter 17 (Oceans) Continued:
Check the boxes in the column below left:
For level of importance use:
*** = very important
** = important
* = not important
N = not relevant

Check the boxes in the column below right:
For level of implementation use:
*** = fully covered
** = well covered - gaps being addressed
* = poorly covered
O = not covered
N = not relevant

TABLE I. THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE APPROPRIATE COORDINATING MECHANISM FOR INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS AND THEIR RESOURCES.

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
	A. Preparation and implementation of land and water use and siting policies. [1]	
**	B. Implementation of integrated coastal and marine management and sustainable development plans and programmes at appropriate levels.	O [2]
**	C. Preparation of coastal profiles identifying critical areas including eroded zones, physical processes, development patterns, user conflicts and specific priorities for management.	* [2]
**	D. Prior environmental impact assessment, systematic observation and follow-up of major projects, including systematic incorporation of results in decision-making.	**
**	E. Contingency plans for human induced and natural disasters.	*** [3]
**	F. Improvement of coastal human settlements, especially in housing, drinking water and treatment and disposal of sewage, solid wastes and industrial effluents.	**
**	G. Periodic assessment of the impacts of external factors and phenomena to ensure that the objectives of integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas and marine environment are met.	O [2]
**	H. Conservation and restoration of altered critical habitats.	**
**	I. Integration of sectoral programmes on sustainable development for settlements, agriculture, tourism, fishing, ports and industries affecting the coastal areas.	O [2]
	J. Infrastructure adaptation and alternative employment.	
	K. Human resource development and training.	
	L. Public education, awareness and information programmes.	
	M. Promoting environmentally sound technology and sustainable practices.	
	N. Development and simultaneous implementation of environmental quality criteria.	

[1] The Department of the Marine has responsibility for implementation of siting policies in relation to acquaculture and other development on the foreshore (as defined in the Foreshore Acts, 1993 and 1992). The development of Coastal Zone Management will establish a context in which such policies can be coordinated with other plans and policies (including land use policies) relevant to coastal areas.

[2] A major consultancy study, the purpose of which is to develop an overall strategy for CZM in Ireland, is in progress and is expected to be completed by the end of March 1996. Action on matters referred to in questions b, c, g and i will be pursued in the context of CZM.

[3] The Department of Marine, through its Irish Marine Emergency Service, has a key role in addressing pollution and other pollution incidents at sea.

TABLE II. TECHNOLOGY (MARINE ENVIRONMENT)

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
***	A. Apply preventive, precautionary and anticipatory approaches so as to avoid degradation of the marine environment, as well as to reduce the risk of long-term or irreversible adverse effects upon it.	** [1]
***	B. Ensure prior assessment of activities that may have significant adverse impacts upon the marine environment.	***
***	C. Integrate protection of the marine environment into relevant general environmental, social and economic development policies.	
***	D. Develop economic incentives, where appropriate, to apply clean technologies and other means consistent with the internalization of environmental costs, such as the polluter pays principle, so as to avoid degradation of the marine environment.	** [2]
N	E. Improve the living standards of coastal populations, particularly in developing countries, so as to contribute to reducing the degradation of the coastal and marine environment.	
***	F. Effective monitoring and surveillance within the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of fish harvesting and transportation of toxic and other hazardous materials.	** [2]

[1] Preventative, precautionary and anticipatory approaches are incorporated in Irish environmental law, including licensing and permitting processes. These approaches will also be reflected in new legislative initiatives in the environmental sphere, including the Dumping at Sea Bill which is before the Irish Parliament at present. [2] Ireland attaches considerable importance to effective monitoring and surveillance of fish harvesting and transportation of toxic and other hazardous materials. It is pressing, within the International Maritime Organisation, for stricter safety standards for the transportation of irradiated nuclear fuels.

TABLE III. SEWAGE RELATED ISSUES

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
	A. Sewage related problems are considered when formulating or reviewing coastal development plans, including human development plans.	[1]
***	B. Sewage treatment facilities are built in accordance with national policies.	*
***	C. Coastal outfalls are located so as to maintain acceptable level of environmental quality and to avoid exposing shell fisheries, water intakes and bathing areas to pathogens.	**
***	D. The Government promotes primary treatment of municipal sewage discharged to rivers, estuaries and the sea, or other solutions appropriate to specific sites.	**
***	E. The Government supports the establishment and improvement of local, national, subregional and regional, as necessary, regulatory and monitoring programmes to control effluent discharge. Minimum sewage effluent guidelines and water quality criteria are in use.	**

[1] Sewage related problems are addressed in Development Plans prepared by local authorities under the physical planning code set out in the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 1993. Such issues will be to the forefront also in the current work on development of Coastal Zone Management.

TABLE IV. OTHER SOURCES OF MARINE POLLUTION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS:

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
**	A. Established or improved upon, as necessary, regulatory and monitoring programmes to control emissions, including recycling technologies.	** [1]
	B. Promoted risk and environmental impact assessments to help ensure an acceptable level of environmental quality.	**
	C. Promoted assessment and cooperation at the regional level, where appropriate, with respect to the input of point source pollutants from the marine environment.	**
***	D. Taken steps to eliminate emissions or discharges of organohalogen compounds from the marine environment.	**
***	E. Taken steps to eliminate/reduce emissions or discharges or other synthetic organic compounds from the marine environment.	**
***	F. Promoted controls over anthropogenic inputs of nitrogen and phosphorous that enter coastal waters where such problems as eutrophication threaten the marine environment or its resources.	**
**	G. Taken steps to develop and implement environmentally sound land-use techniques and practices to reduce run-off to water courses and estuaries which would cause pollution or degradation of the marine environment.	**
**	H. Promoted the use of environmentally less harmful pesticides and fertilizers and alternative methods for pest control, and considered the prohibition of those found to be environmentally unsound.	**
**	I. Adopted new initiatives at national, subregional and regional levels for controlling the input of non-point source pollutants which require broad changes in sewage and waste management, agricultural practices, mining, construction and transportation.	**
**	J. Taken steps to control and prevent coastal erosion and siltation due to anthropogenic factors related to, inter alia, land-use and construction techniques and practices.	**

[1] Effluent discharges are regulated under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts, 1977 and 1990 and the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992. Regulatory processes under the Foreshore Acts, 1933 and 1992 also take account of the need to protect the marine environment from pollution.

TABLE V. ADDRESSING CRITICAL UNCERTAINTIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE. IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROGRAMME AREA THE GOVERNMENT IS CARRYING OUT THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
	A. Coordinating national and regional observation programmes for coastal and near-shore phenomena related to climate change and for research parameters essential for marine and coastal management in all regions.	
	B. Providing improved forecasts of marine conditions for the safety of inhabitants of coastal areas and for the efficiency of marine operations.	
	C. Adopting special measures to cope with and adapt to potential climate change and sea-level rise.	
	D. Participating in coastal vulnerability assessment, modelling and response strategies particularly for priority areas, such as small islands and low-lying and critical coastal areas.	
	E. Identifying ongoing and planned programmes of systematic observation of the marine environment, with a view to integrating activities and establishing priorities to address critical uncertainties for oceans and all seas.	
	F. Research to determine the marine biological effects of increased levels of ultraviolet rays due to the depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer.	
	G. Carrying out analysis, assessments and systematic observation of the role of oceans as a carbon sink.	

TABLE VI. RATING OF ACTIVITIES IN THE AIR AND MARITIME TRANSPORT SECTORS IN THE SMALL ISLANDS DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

AIR TRANSPORT	RATING	MARITIME TRANSPORT	RATING
1. Frequency (external flights)		1. Frequency (external shipping)	
2. Frequency (in-country flights)		2. Frequency (in-country shipping)	
3. Cooperation at regional level in air transport and civil aviation		3. Cooperation at regional level in shipping	
4. Cooperation at international level		4. Cooperation at international level	
5. Economic viability of national air line		5. Economic viability of national shipping line(s)	
6. Economic viability of regional air line		6. Economic viability of regional shipping line (s)	
7. national level training in skills for air transport sector		7. National level training in skills for maritime transport sector	
8. Access to training in skills for air transport sector within the region		8. Regional level training in skills for maritime transport sector	
9. Access to international training for air transport sector		9. Access to international training for maritime transport sector	
10. Supportive of ICAO			

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

In 1993, a survey, based on 1200 rivers, 172 lakes and important bays and estuaries, showed that 77.5% of the rivers (measured by length) were unpolluted; the rest was either "slightly polluted" (12%), "moderately polluted" (9.5%), or "seriously polluted" (1%). The Environment Action Programme committed IR£300 million investment until the year 2000 for the provision of new and improved public water supply. Under the Operational Programme 1994-1999, IR£61 million is to be spent on drinking water, waste water treatment and group water schemes.

A IR£230 million sewage treatment programme involves the provision of full secondary treatment for inland towns discharging to rivers and lakes.

Several local projects have been launched to protect the inland water from pollution. These projects address many aspects, including farmyard pollution, improved monitoring of water quality and introducing phosphate-free domestic detergents.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** Ireland has a vast array of local legislation related to the protection of water quality. These legislative measures deal with water pollution, including the discharge of toxic materials in drinking and groundwater supplies. Regulations made in 1992 concerning groundwater strengthened the statutory pollution control system. As an EU member, Ireland has adopted EU regulation in relation to water, including the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC).

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** The Environment Policy Research Center is part of the National Economic and Social Research Institute which carried out research regarding the use of economic instruments, including waste water charges.

3. **Major Groups:** Farmers are the major group both in terms of being affected by the legislative framework aiming at minimizing farmyard pollution and by meeting the national targets for this sector.

4. **Finance:** The financial commitments stated in the Environmental Action Plan were reaffirmed in the National Development Plan, 1990-1994. The total capital spending on water services was IR£442 million. The EU has been sponsoring the Operational Plan for Water, Sanitary and other local Services with IR£110.92 million.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 199-	
Fresh water availability (total domestic/external in million m^3)				
Annual withdrawal of freshwater as % of available water	2			
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: Ireland is committed to the key programme areas of Chapter 19 and has involvement in the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), which seeks to advance environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals.

Ireland participates in the EU/OECD work on chemical risk assessment, and is currently drafting a risk assessment of a priority chemical within this programme.

Ireland is committed to the advancement of global harmonisation of classification, and participates in EU/OECD/IFCS discussions on this topic. Ireland is already part of the harmonised EU system for classificatio and labelling of dangerous chemicals.

Ireland participates in an information exchange network on import and export of certain dangerous chemicals under EU legislation, and is committed to the impending PIC Convention.

Ireland is also committed to any global risk reduction activities within the framework of IFCS/OECD, including those on lead and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and has implemented risk reduction measures on a number of dangerous chemicals at EU level under the EU Marketing and Use Directive (76/769/EEC).

On 16 May 1994, integrated pollution control licensing of activities which pose a high risk of pollution was launched. The activities include managing materials such as minerals, energy, mineral fibres, glass, chemicals, food, drink, wood, paper, textiles, leather and cement.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The National Authority for Occupational Safety and Health is the competent body for implementing EU legislation in relation to risk assessment, classification and labelling of dangerous chemicals, other than for pesticides and biocides, for which the competent body is the Pesticide Control Service of the Department of Agriculture. The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for integrated pollution control licensing.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: In compliance with EU legislation set out for this sector, Ireland has developed the capacity for responding to emergencies, to rehabilitate contaminated sites and poisoned persons, and has establsihed systems for notification of new chemicals, information gathering and dissemination.

3. Major Groups: Participation by Irish industry in addition to the governmental decision-making structure is essential to achieve the objectives of Chapter 19. Irish industry is fully committed to these objectives.

4. Finance: No information.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Ireland participates fully in all EU work related to management of toxic chemicals and participates in the OECD and IFCS fora as resources permit.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 20: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTES, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN HAZARDOUS WASTES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal Ratified in 1994.

Additional comments relevant to this chapter

Ireland's policy is, first, to try to avoid creating waste; second, to minimize waste; and, third, where necessary, to recycle or safely dispose of waste. In 1995, the Operational Programme included improvement of the waste management system as a priority. At the same time, Ireland drafted a new Waste Bill, enacted in 1996 as the Waste Management Act, which is meant to bring consistency between international and national waste management.

Hazardous waste arising in Ireland in 1995 were estimated to be 243,754 tonnes. The recovery rate for hazardous waste was estimated to be 42.5%. Over 90% of reported hazardous waste is treated in Ireland. Incineration of hazardous wastes and hospital waste requires an Integrated Pollution Control license under the EPA Act, 1992. The recently enacted Waste Management Act, 1996, requires, inter alia, that a national hazardous waste management plan be prepared by the EPA.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** Under the new Waste Bill, it is suggested that EPA is responsible for the licensing of all significant waste disposal activities, including local authority landfills, and for planning, management and control of hazardous waste. The Ministry of the Environment retains power over policy direction and makes regulations to promote waste prevention.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** Please refer to Status Report.

3. **Major Groups:** In 1992, a Discussion Document was published, bringing together thoughts and ideas from interested parties for the new Waste Bill. The private sector has been encouraged to promote the capacity for the prevention, reduction and safe management of hazardous waste.

4. **Finance:** Investment of some £30.5 million will be undertaken in the period 1995-1999 to develop waste management strategies at local and regional levels, improve recycling infrastructure, and support the provision of appropriate hazardous waste management.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 199-	
Generation of hazardous waste (t)				
Import of hazardous wastes (t)				
Export of hazardous wastes (t)				
Area of land contaminated by hazardous waste (km^2)				
Expenditure on hazardous waste treatment (US$)				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 21: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF SOLID WASTES AND SEWAGE-RELATED ISSUES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: In 1995, a new National Waste Database was constructed and a report detailing waste arisings and infrastructure for disposal and recovery for 1995 was published. National waste arisings for 1995, including agricultural wastes, were estimated to be 42,260,757 tonnes of which 31,000,000 tonnes were of agricultural origin. The municipal and industrial sectors were therefore estimated to have produced over eleven million tonnes of waste in 1995:

Total Non-Agricultural Waste Arisings in Ireland (tonnes/annum; %):
Municipal waste (including recycled materials): 1,848,232 (16.4%)
Other wastes collected by or on behalf of local authorities: 953,189 (8.5%)
Industrial (non-hazardous): 7,410,982 (65.8%)
Industrial (hazardous): 243,754 (2.2%)
Healthcare wastes: 20,000 (0.2%)
Dredge spoils: 784,600 (7.0%)
TOTAL: 11,260,757 (100%)

Industrial waste was categorised using the European Waste Catalogue and Hazardous Waste List, along with the NACE classification system for economic activities. A set of indicators for both municipal and industrial wastes were developed from the data which can be used to track trends in waste arisings, as well as recovery and disposal practices, for both waste streams.

In 1995, Ireland had 118 municipal waste landfills receiving approximately 2.2 million tonnes of waste per annum. The majority of these sites are relatively small with 58% accepting less than 15,000 tonnes per annum and only 7 landfills receiving in excess of 50,000 tonnes per annum. In 1994, the Government set targets for increased recycling of packaging materials in compliance with targets set by the EU. Municipal waste recovery infrastructure is improving with 6 recycling schemes, 28 civic amenity sites and over 400 bring banks reported for 1995. The Government recently enacted the Waste Management Act which, inter alia, introduces comprehensive measures for the management of solid wastes in Ireland.

Between 1989 and 1993, IR£ 1.6 million was allocated to a demonstration project and programmes for municipal waste recycling. Among other benefits, this has created an increase in public awareness and participation.

Regarding sewage-related issues, refer to chapter 18.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** Please refer to Status.

3. **Major Groups:** Local authorities are empowered under the General Government legislation to collect household waste and provide waste disposal facilities.

4. **Finance:** No information.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 199-	
Generation of industrial and municipal waste (t)				
Waste disposed(Kg/capita)				
Expenditure on waste collection and treatment (US$)				
Waste recycling rates (%)				
Municipal waste disposal (Kg/capita)				
Waste reduction rates per unit of GDP (t/year)				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 22: SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

In 1994, all imported sealed radioactive sources were to be sent back to the original supplier at the end of their useful time period.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** The storage and disposal of all radioactive waste in Ireland is controlled by the Radiological Protection Act, 1991. The Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland handles the licensing that is mandated by the Act.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** In 1994, the Radiological Protection Institute recommended establishing a centralized waste management facility for low level radioactive waste.

3. **Major Groups:** No information.

4. **Finance:** No information.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** In 1993, Ireland supported the ban on dumping of low and intermediate level radioactive waste at sea, which was adopted at the Consultative Meeting of the London Convention.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

Please attempt to restrict your response to the space allocated for each chapter.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTERS 23-32: MAJOR GROUPS

The role of major groups are also covered under the various chapters of Agenda 21. The following is a summary of main objectives outlined in Agenda 21. Please check the appropriate boxes and describe briefly any important steps or obstacles.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 24: GLOBAL ACTION FOR WOMEN TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT.
The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was
Ratified on 23 December 1985

24.a Increasing the proportion of women decision makers.

No information.

24.b assessing, reviewing, revising and implementing curricula and other educational material with a view to promoting dissemination of gender-relevant knowledge.

No information.

24.c and 24.d formulating and implementing policies, guidelines, strategies and plans for achievement of equality in all aspects of society including issuing a strategy by year 2000 to eliminate obstacles to full participation of women in sustainable development.

No information.

24.e establishing mechanisms by 1995 to assess implementation and impact of development and environment policies and programmes on women

No information.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

No information.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 25: CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

25.a establishing processes that promote dialogue between the youth and government at all levels and mechanisms that permit youth access to information and opportunity to present their views on implementing A21.

No information.

Describe their role in the national process:

25.b reducing youth unemployment

No information.

25.c ensuring that by year 2000 more than 50% of youth -- gender balanced -- have access to appropriate secondary education or vocational training.

No information.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

No information.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 26: RECOGNIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

26.a establishing a process to empower indigenous people and their communities -- through policies and legal instruments:
No information.

26.b strengthening arrangements for active participation in national policies
No information.

26.c involving indigenous people in resource management strategies and programmes at the national and local level.
No information.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

No information.

Ch. 27: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: PARTNERS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.
27.a developing mechanisms that allow NGOs to play their partnership role responsibly and effectively.
27.b reviewing formal procedures and mechanisms to involve NGOs in decision making and implementation.
27.c promoting and allowing NGOs to participate in the conception, establishment and evaluation of official mechanisms to review Agenda 21 implementation.
27.d establishing a mutually productive dialogue by 1995 at the national level between NGOs and governments.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):
Local and National Major Groups are considered essential in the overall contribution to the national sustainable development initiatives, and participate most actively at the local level. In particular, NGOs are involved in the National Economic and Social Forum, the Advisory Committee to the Environment Protection Agency, and the National Forum on Development Aid. NGOs were also consulted in the preparation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy during 1996. They have taken part in the CSD 1996, and will again in 1997. They have also participated in other UN meetings, such as the Social Development Summit, Copenhagen, and the Women's Conference, Bejing. Financial aid is given to a number of NGOs linked with Agenda 21 issues, and the Government considers NGOs and regional Major Groups (e.g. Amazonian, Baltic, Pacific) as being quite helpful.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 28: LOCAL AUTHORITIES' INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF AGENDA 21.

28.a encouraging local authorities to implement and monitor programmes that aim to ensure participation of women and youth in local decision making.

The Government supports local Agenda 21 initiatives.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):
In Ireland, the local authorities are empowered by the Local Government Act, 1991. It was recommended that the National Sustainable Development Strategy for 1997 should be accompanied by a complementary strategy for the local levels. The strategy should involve the whole community, its local elected members, and other community and representative groups. Given the structure of governance in Ireland, the pivotal role for the purposes of Local Agenda 21 should be at county and borough level. Guidelines were issued by the Department of the Environment in mid-1995 to assist local authorities in developing local Agendas 21.

Ch. 29: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF WORKERS AND THEIR TRADE UNIONS.

29.a full participation of workers in implementation and evaluation of A21.
29.b (By year 2000, (a) promoting ratification of ILO conventions; (b) establishing bipartite and tripartite mechanism on safety, health and sustainable development; (c) increasing number of environmental collective agreements; (d) reducing occupational accidents and injuries; (e) increasing workers' education and training efforts.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):
The National Authority for Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) is responsible for enforcing safety in work legislation and promoting safety awareness among employers and employees.

30: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY.
30.a increasing the efficiency of resource use, including reuse, recycling, and reduction of waste per unit of economic output.
30.b encouraging the concept of stewardship in management and use of natural resources by entrepreneurs.
30.c increasing number of enterprises that subscribe to and implement sustainable development policies.

The Community Support Framework (CSF), 1994-1999, is based on principles which will entail: focusing on cleaner technologies, waste minimisation and recycling, and pursuing a policy of conservation of energy and other raw materials. Voluntary initiatives in relation to the industrial sector include: participating in the annual industry environment awards schemes, exploring the potential of voluntary agreements to reduce emissions, developing initiatives to implement the national recycling strategy, and implementing environmental management and auditing at the company level. In March 1995, Ireland, as an EU member, launched the Eco-management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), and complemented it with some of their own standards under the Environmental Management Systems (EMS). Integrated pollution control (IPC) and the licensing measures handled by EPA are continuously being expanded to address a broader range of industrial activities.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):
The Department of Enterprise and Employment is responsible for the implementation of industrial policy. The Department works closely with the Departments of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Marine in developing natural resource based industry reconciled with conservation and environmental protection objectives.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 31: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMMUNITY.

31.a improving exchange of knowledge and concerns between s&t community and the general public. scientific community has already established ways in which to address the general public and deal with sustainable development.

No information.

31.b developing, improving and promoting international acceptance of codes of practice and guidelines related to science and technology and its role in reconciling environment and development.

No information.

Brief comments on this chapter not already described in chapter 35 (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

No information.

Ch. 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF FARMERS.

32.a promoting and encouraging sustainable farming practices and technologies.

32.b developing a policy framework that provides incentives and motivation among farmers for sustainable and efficient farming practices.

32.c enhancing participation of organizations of farmers in design and implementation of sustainable development policies.

No information.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

No information.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

Financial resources and mechanisms are also covered under each sectoral chapter of Agenda 21 where relevant. This summary highlights broader national financial policies, domestic and external (including ODA)

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

Since 1992, the Government has provided the following new and additional grant funds for sustainable development not specifically earmarked for the sectoral chapters under review in 1996: US$ eq. 90,000 to the Voluntary Fund for Desertification Convention; US$ eq. 30,000 to the Voluntary Fund for Climate Change Convention; US$ eq. 15,000 Trust Fund for Commission on Sustainable Development.*

In 1994, Ireland joined the GEF. It has implemented EIA as a standard part of aid-project appraisal, and has made an important contribution to environmentally linked projects in developing countries, e.g. in Lesotho and Tanzania.

CHANGES IN NATIONAL BUDGET TO ADDRESS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

Subsidies are given to firms for undertaking environmental audits and for promoting industrial education in environmental management and energy use. Subsidies are also given to the agricultural sector, as direct payment under the farmyard pollution programme, and as support for farm improvements and education linking environmental issues and agriculture. Grants are available e.g. towards recycling projects, and site energy audits and surveys.

NEW ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS:

The following measures are currently being applied: user charges as a fixed proportion are being levied on most households in order to pay for water and waste services; administrative charges as a fee on environmental licensing and monitoring; and lower level of tax on unleaded fuels. The Department of Environment funds an Environment Policy Research Center to study the economic aspect of environmental policies. This process also entails reviewing and revising economic instruments, and developing new instruments.

ELIMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY UNFRIENDLY SUBSIDIES:

The National Sustainable Development Strategy (1997) addresses this issue.

* Please elaborate on the financing since 1992.

ODA policy issues

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS						
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	
ODA funding provided or received (Total US$million)						
	Average for 92-93		Average for 94-96			
Net flow of external capital from all sources as % of GDP						
Other data						

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 34: TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building is also covered under each sectoral chapter of Agenda 21 where relevant. This summary highlights broader national policies and actions relating to chapter 34.

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT ON LINKS BETWEEN NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION NETWORKS/SYSTEMS:

Ireland is involved in two projects in Tanzania: a coastal protection programme in Tanga and a joint research project in the field of hydrology. The coastal protection programme is a multi-disciplinary project managed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION:

• Describe any work being undertaken at the national or local level regarding efforts to promote clean production processes and/or the concepts of eco-efficiency. These processes may include training, preferential financial arrangements, information dissemination and changes in legal or regulatory frameworks.

Work on developing and promoting the concept and use of clean technologies is undertaken by the Clean Technology Center at Cork Regional Technical College, with a focus on minimizing waste and avoiding pollution. It is co-funded by members of the Irish chemical/pharmaceutical industry and by EU structural funds. In addition, the Cleaner Production Promotion Center in University College Cork focusses on academic input into cleaner production processes. The Center has also established a network with EU and U.S. institutions.

• Provide information on the adoption of environmental management systems. National reaction to environmental management system standards such as the ISO 14000 Series and others. Please note efforts made at the national level to promote their adoption and the creation of certification infrastructure in order to facilitate access to these standards to local industry.

• List and describe programs or work under way to facilitate the transfer of ESTs to small and medium sized enterprises. Please note efforts to facilitate access to financial resources and other transfer strategies.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT ON NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH NEEDS AND PRIORITIES:

No information.

STEPS TAKEN TO ENHANCE SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING, IMPROVE LONG TERM SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT, BUILDING OF CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY:

No information.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS			
		Year	
Number of scientists, engineers and technicians engaged in research and experimental development	7,642	1988	
Total expenditure for research and experimental development (US$eq.)	$	19--	
Other data			

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

The Departments of Education and Environment are primarily responsible for the activities in this sector which include encouraging partnerships, mobilizing resources, providing information, assessing the needs of different population groups, and preparing a National Education Strategy. They also have an interdepartmental advisory body which has produced a report on Environmental Education. The Department of Environment undertakes attitude surveys on an occasional basis and organizes information campaigns on a variety of environmental issues e.g. Anti-litter, recycling, etc. Ireland also has an environmental information service called ENFO which promotes environmental awareness by providing free environmental information on all environmental topics to the general public, schools, industry, research institutions, NGOs, etc. ENFO also offers international access to information, including the United Nations information network INFOTERRA.

a) Reorientation of education towards sustainable development

Ireland has a number of educational programs focusing on the environment. These include "Young Reporters for the Environment", the South Wexford Environment Education Programme (SWEEP) which involves an European network for exchanging and developing teaching materials; a Curriculum Development Unit for "European Action for the Environment"; and the GLOBE initiative to exchange information on the Internet. Some Teachers Centres have also been involved in environmental education networks, and The Irish Energy center has organized school programmes on energy conservation.

b) Increasing public awareness

The Department of the Environment funds three annual awards schemes which aim at promoting awareness in various ways, including identifying technical design, management and manufacturing to enhance conservation of resources within the industry; the best environmental record of the year among local authorities; and best public awareness campaigns among NGOs. Ireland also has Tidy Towns Competitions, Clean-up Ireland Week and National Energy Awareness Week, which in a number of ways address public awareness.

c) Promoting training

No information.

ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS:

In producing textbooks and curriculum gender issues have been taken into account.

FINANCING AND COST EVALUATION OF THE LABOUR ACTIVITIES:

No information.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS				
	1980	1990	Latest 199+	
Adult literacy rate (%) Male				
Adult literacy rate (%) Female				
% of primary school children reaching grade 5 (1986-93)		100		
Mean number of years of schooling				
% of GNP spent on education	6.6	6.0		
Females per 100 males in secondary school*	106.9	104	103.4+	
Women per 100 men in the labour force*	n.a.	52.15	59.6+	
Other data: Percentage of GDP spent on education: 5.58% (1980); 5.04% (1990); 5.72% (199+).*				

+ Please specify the year.

* Taken from 1996 questionnaire.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

National capacity building is also covered under sectoral chapters.
Donors: You may wish to describe here how Agenda 21 has influenced your ODA policies in this area.
Developing countries: You may wish to describe any new national mechanisms for capacity building - and any changes in technical cooperation.

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT ON NATIONAL ENDOGENOUS CAPACITY BUILDING: No information.	

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Ch. 38: Brief summary of any particular UN System response affecting this country/state:

No information.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

Ch. 39: International Legal Instruments are covered under the relevant sectoral chapters. This is a listing of major agreements/conventions (not already covered) entered into and relevant to Agenda 21:

1) Convention for the Establishment of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (Paris, 1951);
2) International Plant Protection Convention (Rome, 1951);
3) International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil (London 1954);
4) North-East Atlantic Fisheries Convention (London, 1959);
5) International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (Paris, 1961);
6) Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere in Outer Space and Under Water (Moscow, 1963);
7) Convention for the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (Copenhagen, 1964);
8) Treaty on Principles Governing Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies, (London, Moscow, Washington, 1967);
9) European Convention for the Protection of Animals during International Transport (Paris, 1968);
10) International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (Brussels, 1969);
11) International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties (Brussels, 1969);
12) Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, 1971);
13) Protocol to amend the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Paris, 1982);
14) Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean floor and in the Subsoil Thereof (London, Moscow, Washington, 1971);
15) Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Oslo, 1972);
16) Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxic Weapons, and on their Destruction (London, Moscow, Washington, 1972);
17) Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London, Mexico City, Moscow, Washington, 1972);
18) Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources (Paris, 1974);
19) Agreement on an International Energy Programme (Paris, 1974);
20) European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes (Strasbourg, 1976);
21) Convention on the Prohibition of Military or any other Hostile use of Environmental Modification Techniques (New York, 1976);
22) Convention of Civil Liability for oil Pollution Damage resulting from Exploration for and Exploration of Seabed Mineral Resources (London, 1977);
23) Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn, 1979);
24) Convention of the Conservation of European Wildlife and NAtural Habitats (Berne, 1979);
25) Convention of Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (Geneva, 1979);
26) European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Cooperation between Territorial Communities or Authorities (Madrid, 1980);
27) United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Montego Bay, 1982);
28) International Tropical Timber Agreement (Geneva, 1983);
29) Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna, 1985);
30) Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal, 1987);
31) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Rio de Janeiro, 1992);
32) Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992);
33) Copenhagen Amendment to the Montreal Protocol;
34) Global Environment Facility.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

This chapter is also covered under sectoral and other chapters of this profile. The matrix below gives an overview of how national authorities rate the available information for decision making.

Rating of available data and information suitable for decision-making

Agenda 21 Chapters		Very good	Good	Some good data but many gaps	Poor	Remarks
2.	International cooperation and trade		x			
3.	Combating poverty		x	xx		
4.	Changing consumption patterns		x			
5.	Demographic dynamics and sustainability		x			
6.	Human health	x				
7.	Human settlements	x				
8.	Integrating E & D in decision-making					n.a.
9.	Protection of the atmosphere	x				
10.	Integrated planning and management of land resources			x		
11.	Combating deforestation		x			
12.	Combating desertification and drought			x		
13.	Sustainable mountain development			x		
14.	Sustainable agriculture and rural development		x			
15.	Conservation of biological diversity		x			
16.	Biotechnology		x			
17.	Oceans, seas, coastal areas and their living resources		x			
18.	Freshwater resources	xx				
19.	Toxic chemicals	xx				
20.	Hazardous wastes	xx				
21.	Solid wastes	xx				
22.	Radioactive wastes			x		
24.	Women in sustainable development			x		
25.	Children and youth			x		
26.	Indigenous people		x			
27.	Non-governmental organizations			x		
28.	Local authorities			x		
29.	Workers and trade unions			x		
30.	Business and industry			x		
31.	Scientific and technological community			x		
32.	Farmers			x		
33.	Financial resources and mechanisms			x		
34.	Technology, cooperation and capacity-building			x		
35.	Science for sustainable development		x			
36.	Education, public awareness and training		x			
37.	International cooperation for capacity-building		x			
38.	International institutional arrangements		x			
39.	International legal instruments		x			
40.	Information for decision-making			x		

Please attempt to restrict your response to the space allocated for each chapter.

Additional Comments

On 20 May 1993, Ireland put into law, a Directive 90/313/EEC on freedom of access to information held by public authorities in relation to the environment for all persons. Planning and EPA licensing Regulations have been amended to provide fuller access to environmental information. The Access to Information on the Environment Regulations, 1996, gave improved access to information under the EU Directive. On the more general question of freedom of information, a Freedom of Information Bill was published in December 1996 and is now before Parliament.

The Irish Government is committed to work towards a new set of indicators in relation to Sustainable Development. This commitment was backed by a 2-day conference on Sustainable Development indicators which was fostered by NGOs and the academic community. An initial study "Formulating Indicators of Sustainable Development", commissioned by the DOE from the Economic and Social Research Institute, was published in April 1996. The development of indicators will involve a number of Government Departments, NGOs, sectoral representatives and international experts.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1989	1993	Latest 199-	
Number of telephones in use per 100 inhabitants	26.1	32.8		
Other data				